

S W A

How soon doth man decay!
When cloths are taken from a cheff of sweets,
To *swaddle* infants, whose young breath
Scarce knows the way;
Those cloths are little winding sheets,
Which do conigne and fend them unto death. *Herbert.*
They *swaddled* me up in my night-gown with long pieces of
linen, 'till they had wrapt me in about an hundred yards of
fwathe. *Addison.*

2. To beat; to cudgel. A low ludicrous word.
Great on the bench, great in the fiddle,
That could as well bind o'er as *swaddle*. *Hudibras.*

SWADOLE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] Cloaths bound round the
body.

I begged them to uncase me: no, no, say they; and upon
that carried me to one of their houses, and put me to bed in
all my *swaddles*. *Addison.*

SWADDLINGBAND. *n. f.* [from *swaddle*.] Cloth wrapped
SWADDLINGCLOATH. } round a new-born child.
SWADDLINGCLOUT. }

From thence a fairy thee unwetting rest,
There as thou sleepest in tender *swaddlingbands*,
And her babe elfin brood, there for thee left,
Such men do changelings call, so changed by fairies theft. *Fairy Queen.*

That great baby you see there is not yet out of his *swaddling*.
Shakespeare. Hamlet.

The *swaddlingbands* were purple, wrought with gold. *Dryden.*
To sink down by its weight; to lay heavy.

They are more apt, in *swagging* down, to pierce with their
points, than in the jacent posture, and crevice the wall. *Walt.*
Being a tall fish, and with his fides much compressed, he
hath a long fin upon his back, and another answering to it on
his belly; by which he is the better kept upright, or from
swagging on his sides. *Grew.*

To *swage*. *v. a.* [from *affuage*.] To ease; to soften; to mi-
tigate.

Apt words have pow'r to *swage*
The tumours of a troubled mind,
And are as balm to fester'd wounds. *Milton.*

Nor wanting pow'r to mitigate and *swage*,
With solemn touches, troubled thoughts, and chafe
Anguish, and doubt, and fear from mortal minds. *Milton.*

I will love thee,
Though my distracted senses should forsake me,
I'd find some intervals, when my poor heart
Should *swage* itself, and be let loose to thine. *Otway.*

To *SWAGGER*. *v. n.* [from *swagger*, Dutch, to make a noise;
pagan, Saxon.] To bluster; to bully; to be turbulently and
tumultuously proud and insolent.

Drunk? I quabble? *swagger*? and discourse fustian with
one's own shadow? Oh thou invincible spirit of wine! *Shak.*
'Tis the rage of one that I should fight withal, if he be
alive; a rascal that *swagger'd* with me last night. *Shakespeare.*

Off a terrible oath, with a *swaggering* accent sharply twang'd
off, gives manhood more approbation than proof itself. *Shak.*
The lesser size of mortals love to *swagger* for opinions, and
to boast infallibility of knowledge. *Glauv. Scarp.*

Many such asses in the world huff, look big, stare, drefs,
cock, and *swagger* at the same noisy rate. *L'Estrange.*

He chuck'd,
And scarcely deign'd to set a foot to ground,
But *swagger'd* like a lord. *Dryden.*

Confidence, how weakly forever founded, hath some effect
upon the ignorant, who think there is something more than
ordinary in a *swaggering* man that talks of nothing but de-
monstration. *Tilletson.*

To be great, is not to be flattered, and formal, and superci-
lous; to *swagger* at our footmen, and browbeat our infe-
riors. *Celtier on Pride.*

What a pleasure is it to be victorious in a cause? to *swag-
ger* at the bar? for a lawyer I was born, and a lawyer I will
be. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*

SWAGGERER. *n. f.* [from *swagger*.] A blutcher; a bully; a
turbulent noisy fellow.

He's no *swaggerer*, hostels; a tame cheater: you may stroke
him as gently as a puppy greyhound. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*

SWAGGY. *adj.* [from *swag*.] Dependent by its weight.
The beaver is called animal ventricosum, from his *swaggy*
and prominent belly. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

SWAIN. *n. f.* [from *swain*, Saxon and Runick.]
1. A young man.
That good knight would not so high repair,
Himself estranging from their joyance vain,
Whose fellowship seem'd far unfit for warlike *swain*. *F. 2.*

2. A country servant employed in husbandry.
It were a happy life
A pastoral youth. *Shak. Henry VI.*

3. A pafforal youth.
Blest *swains*! whose nymphs in ev'ry grace excel;
Blest nymphs! whose *swains* those graces sing so well. *Pope.*

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SWAINMOTE. *n. f.* [from *swainmote*, law Lat.] A court touching
matters of the forest, kept by the charter of the forest three
in the year. This court of *swainmote* is as incident to a forest,
as the court of piepowder is to a fair. The *swainmote* is a
court of freeholders within the forest. *Cauld.*

To *SWALE*. *v. a.* [from *swale*, Saxon, to kindle.] To waste or
To *SWEAL*. } blaze away; to melt: as, the candle *swales*.
SWA'LET. *n. f.* Among the tin-miners, water breaking in
upon the miners at their work. *Brady.*

SWALLOW. *n. f.* [from *swale*, Saxon.] A small bird of pit-
fage, or, as some say, a bird that lies hid and sleeps in the
winter.

The *swallow* follows not Summer more willingly than we
your lordship. *Shak. Timon of Athens.*

Daffodils,
That come before the *swallow* dares. *Shakespeare.*
The *swallows* make use of celandine, and the linnet of
eupragia. *Mere.*

When *swallows* fleet far high and sport in air,
He told us that the welkin would be clear. *Gay.*

The *swallow* tweeps
The slimy pool, to build his hanging house
Intent. *Thomson's Spring.*

To *SWALLOW*. *v. a.* [from *swalzen*, Saxon; *swalgen*, Dutch.]
1. To take down the throat. *Job vii. 19.*

I *swallow* down my spitele.
If little faults
Shall not be wink'd at, how shall we stretch our eye,
Whole capital crimes chew'd, *swallow'd*, and digested,
Appear before us? *Shakespeare's Henry V.*

Men are, at a venture, of the religion of the country; and
must therefore *swallow* down opinions, as silly people do em-
piricks pills, and have nothing to do but believe that they will
do the cure. *Lake.*

2. To receive without examination.
Consider and judge of it as a matter of reason, and not
swallow it without examination as a matter of faith. *Lake.*

3. To engross; to appropriate.
Far be it from me, that I should *swallow* up or destroy. *2 Sa.*
Homer excels all the inventors of other arts in this, that he
has *swallowed* up the honour of those who succeeded him. *Pope.*

4. To absorb; to take in; to sink in any abyss; to engulf.
Though you untie the winds, and let them fight
Against the churches, though the yesty waves
Confound and *swallow* navigation up. *Shakespeare.*

I may be pluck'd into the *swallowing* womb
Of this deep pit, poor Bassianus' grave. *Shak. Tit. Andronic.*

Death is *swallowed* up in victory. *1 Cor. xv. 54.*
If the earth open her mouth and *swallow* them up, ye shall
understand that these men have provoked the Lord. *Nim. xii.*

In bogs *swallow'd* up and lost.
He hid many things from us, not that they would *swallow*
up our understandings, but divert our attention from what is
more important. *Decay of Piety.*

Nature would abhor
To be forced back again upon herself,
And like a whirlpool *swallow* her own streams. *Dryden and Lee's Oedipus.*

Should not the sad occasion *swallow* up
My other cares, and draw them all into it? *Addison.*

And late at night in *swallowing* earthquake funk. *Thomson.*

5. To devour; to destroy.
The necessary provision for life *swallows* the greatest part of
their time. *Lake.*

Corruption *swallow'd* what the liberal hand
Of bounty scatter'd. *Thomson's Autumn.*

6. To be lost in any thing; to be given up.
The priest and the prophet are *swallowed* up of wine. *If.*

SWALLOW. *n. f.* [from the verb.] The throat; voracity.
Had this man of merit and mortification been called to ac-
count for his ungodly *swallowing*, in gorging down the estates of
helpless widows and orphans, he would have told them that it
was all for charitable uses. *South.*

SWALLOWTAIL. *n. f.* A species of willow.
The shining willow they call *swallowtail*, because of the
pleasure of the leaf. *Bacon's Natural History.*

SWALLOWWORT. *n. f.* A plant.
SWAM. The pretence of *swam*. *1 Cor. xv. 54.*

SWAMP. *n. f.* [from *swamp*, Gothic; *swan*, Saxon; *swamm*,
Dutch; *swanma*, Dutch; *swamp*, Danish; *swamp*, Swedish.]
A marsh; a bog; a fen.

SWAMPY. *adj.* [from *swamp*.] Boggy; fenny.
Swampy fens breathe destructive myriads. *Thomson.*

SWAN. *n. f.* [from *swan*, Saxon; *swan*, Danish; *swan*, Dutch.]
The swan is a large water-fowl, that has a long and very
straight neck, and is very white, excepting when it is young.
Its legs and feet are black, as is its bill, which is like that of
a goose, but something rounder, and a little hooked at the
lower end of it: the two sides below its eyes are black and
shining like ebony. Swans use wings like sails, which catch
the wind, so that they are driven along in the water. *They*

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feed upon herbs and some sort of grain like a goose, and some
are said to have lived three hundred years. There is a species
of swans with the feathers of their heads, towards the breast,
marked at the ends with a gold colour inclining to red. The
swan is reckoned by Moses among the unclean creatures; but
it was consecrated to Apollo the god of music, because it was
said to sing melodiously when it was near expiring; a tradition
generally received, but fabulous. *Catmer.*

With untainted eye
Compare her face with some that I shall show; *Shakespeare.*
And I will make thee think thy swan a crow.
Let music found, while he doth make his choice; *Shakespeare.*
Then if he lose, he makes a swan like end.

I have seen a swan,
With bootless labour, swim against the tide,
And spend her strength with over-matching waves. *Shakespeare.*
The birds early to be drawn are plainpeds, or water-fowl,
as the mallard, geese, and swan. *Peasam on Drawing.*

The fearful matrons raise a screaming cry;
Old feeble men with fainter groans reply;
A jarring found results, and mingles in the sky,
Like that of swans remurm'ring to the floods. *Dryden.*

The idea, which an Englishman signifies by the name swan,
is a white colour, long neck, black beak, black legs, and whole
feet, and all these of a certain size, with a power of swim-
ming in the water, and making a certain kind of noise. *Lake.*

SWANSKIN. *n. f.* [from *swan* and *skin*.] A kind of soft flannel,
imitating for warmth the down of a swan.

SWAP. *adv.* [from *swapa*, Dutch.] To do at a snatch, blackly; and whole
feet, and all these of a certain size, with a power of swim-
ming in the water, and making a certain kind of noise. *Lake.*

SWARD. *n. f.* [from *sward*, Swedish.] A sword.
1. The skin of bacon. *See To Swop.*

2. The surface of the ground; whence *green sward*, or *green
sward*.
Water, kept too long, loosens and softens the *sward*, makes
it subject to ruffles and coarse grass. *Note on Tuller.*

The noon of night was past, when the foe
Came dreadful o'er the level *swards*, that lies
Between the wood and the swift streaming Ouse. *A. Phillips.*

To plant a vineyard in July, when the earth is very dry
and combustible, plow up the *swards*, and burn it. *Mortimer.*

SWARE. The pretence of *sware*.
SWARM. *n. f.* [from *swarm*, Saxon; *swarm*, Dutch.]
1. A great body or number of bees or other small animals, par-
ticularly those bees that migrate from the hive.

A swarm of bees that cut the liquid fly,
Upon the topmost branch in clouds alight. *Dryden's Æn.*

2. A multitude; a crowd.
From this *swarm* of fair advantages,
You grip'd the general sway into your hands,
Forgot your oath to us at Doncaster. *Shakespeare.*

If we could number up those prodigious *swarms* that had
settled themselves in every part of it, they would amount to
more than can be found. *Addison on Italy.*

To *SWARM*. *v. n.* [from *swarm*, Saxon; *swarmen*, Dutch.]
1. To rise as bees in a body, and quit the hive.

Like labouring bees on a long Summer's day;
Some found the trumpet for the rest to *swarm*. *Dryden.*

Swarm'd on a rotten stick the bees I spy'd.
When bees hang in *swarming* time, they will presently rise,
if the weather hold. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*

2. To appear in multitudes; to crowd; to throng.
The merciles Macdonel,
The multiplying villainies of nature
Do *swarm* upon. *Shakespeare. Macbeth.*

Our superfluous lacqueys, and our peasants,
Who in unnecessary action *swarm*
About our squares of battle. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*

What a multitude of thoughts at once
Awaken'd in me *swarm*, while I consider
What from within I feel myself, and hear
What from without comes often to my ears. *Milton.*

Then mounts the throne, high plac'd before the shrine;
In crowds around the *swarming* people join. *Dryden's Æn.*

3. To be crowded; to be over-run; to be thronged.
These garriſons you have now planted throughout all Ire-
land, and every place *swarms* with soldiers. *Spenser.*

Her lower region *swarms* with all sort of fowl, her rivers
with fish, and her seas with whole shoals. *Hewell.*

Those days *swarmed* with fables, and from such grounds
took hints for fictions, poisoning the world ever after. *Brown.*

4. To breed multitudes.
Not to thick *swarm'd* once the soil
Bedropp'd with blood of Gorgon. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*

SWART. *v. a.* [from *swart*, Gothic; *swarte*, Saxon; *swart*,
Dutch.]
1. Black; darkly brown; tawney.

A nation strange, with visage *swart*,
And courage fierce, that all men did affray,
Through the world then swarmed in every part. *F. Queen.*

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A man
Of *swarth* complexion, and of crabbed hue,
That him full of melancholy did flow. *Fairy Queen.*

Whereas I was black and *swart* before;
With those clear rays which she infus'd on me,
That beauty am I blest with; which you see. *Shak. H. VI.*

No goblin, or *swart* fairy of the mine,
Hath hurtful power o'er true virginity. *Milton.*

2. In *swart* it seems to signify black; gloomy; malignant.
Ye valleys low,
On whose fresh lap the *swart* star sparsely looks. *Milton.*

To *SWART*. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To blacken; to
dusk.
The heat of the sun may *swart* a living part, or even black
a dead or dissolving flesh. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

SWARTHILY. *adv.* [from *swarthly*.] Blackly; duskyly; taw-
nily.

SWARTHINESS. *n. f.* [from *swarthly*.] Darkness of complexion;
tawnyness.

SWARTHY. *adj.* [See *SWART*.] Dark of complexion; black;
dusky; tawney.

Set me where, on some pathless plain,
The *swarthly* Africans complain. *Roscommon.*

Though in the torrid climates the common colour is black
or *swarthly*, yet the natural colour of the temperate climates is
more transparent and beautiful. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

Here *swarthly* Charles appears, and there
His brother with dejected air. *Addison.*

Did they know Cato, our remotest kings
Would pour embattled multitudes about him;
Their *swarthly* hosts would darken all our plains,
Doubling the native horror of the war,
And making death more grim. *Addison's Cato.*

SWASH. *n. f.* [A cant word.] A figure, whose circumference
is not round, but oval; and whose moldings lie not at right
angles, but oblique to the axis of the work. *Moxon.*

To *SWASH*. *v. n.* To make a great clatter or noise; whence
swashbuckler.

We'll have a *swashing* and a martial outsize,
As many other mannish cowards have,
That do outface it with their semblances. *Shakespeare.*

Draw, if you be men: Gregory, remember thy *swashing*
blow. *Shak. Romeo and Juliet.*

SWASHER. *n. f.* [from *swash*.] One who makes a show of
valour or force of arms.

I have observed these three *swashers*; three such antics do
not amount to a man. *Shakespeare. Henry V.*

SWATCH. *n. f.* A swatch. Not in use.
One spreadeth those bands so in order to lie;
As barlie in *swatches* may fill it thereby. *Tusser.*

SWATH. *n. f.* [from *swade*, Dutch.]
1. A line of grass cut down by the mower.

With tossing and raking, and setting on cox,
Grass, lately in *swatches*, is meat for an ox. *Tusser.*

The *swath* of the mower's *swath*, ripe for his edge,
Fall down before him, like the mower's *swath*. *Shakespeare.*

As soon as your grass is mown, if it lie thick in the *swath*,
neither air nor sun can pass freely through it. *Mortimer.*

2. A continued quantity.
An affection'd ass, that cons state without books, and utters
it by great *swaths*. *Shak. Twelfth Night.*

3. [Sweban, to bind, Saxon.] A band; a fillet.
An Indian comb, a stick whereof is cut into three sharp and
round teeth four inches long: the other part is left, for the
handle, adorned with fine straws laid along the sides, and
lapped round about it in several distinct *swaths*. *Grew.*

They swaddled me up in my night-gown with long pieces of
linen, which they folded about me, 'till they had wrapped me
in above an hundred yards of *swathe*. *Addison's Spectator.*

To *SWATHE*. *v. a.* [from *swathe*, Saxon.] To bind, as a child
with bands and rollers.

Thrice hath this Hotspur, Mars in *swathing* cloaths,
Discomfited great Douglas. *Shak. Henry IV.*

He had two sons; the eldest of them at three years old,
I th' *swathing* cloaths the others, from their nursery.
Were stol'n. *Shakespeare. Cymbeline.*

Their children are never *swathed*, or bound about with any
thing, when they are first born; but are put naked into the bed
with their parents to lie. *Abbot's Description of the World.*

Swath'd in her lap the bold nurse bore him out,
With olive branches cover'd round about. *Dryden.*

Master's feet are *swath'd* no longer,
If in the night too oft he kicks,
Or shows his loco-motive tricks. *Prior.*

To *SWAY*. *v. a.* [from *swayen*, German, to move.]
1. To wave in the hand; to move or wield with facility: as, to
sway the scepter.

Glancing fire out of the iron play'd,
As sparkles from the anvil rise,
When heavy hammers on the wedge are *sway'd*. *F. Queen.*